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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Acting Deputy Secretary

August 22, 2011

Ms. Susan Webster (6SF-PR)
Team Leader, Removal Site Team
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

**Re: Mt. Taylor San Mateo Radiation Site-San Mateo, New Mexico Cibola
County-Time Critical Removal Action EPA ID NMN000607170**

Dear Ms. Webster:

NMED has been informed that EPA Region 6 staff have identified residential structures in the Village of San Mateo that exceed established acceptable dose and cancer risk levels such that a removal action is warranted. These structures were identified as part of the Grants Mining District structural assessment.

Gamma radiation levels that exceed the EPA established dose rate of 15 mrem/year (above local background) and the associated increased cancer risk of 3×10^{-4} have been identified. The proposed removal action will excavate contaminated soil/debris which will be disposed of in a secure off-site facility. In addition to the removal of the contaminated soil/debris, EPA has determined that a subset of the residential structures exceed the acceptable exposure rate of 4 pCi/L of radon-222 as recorded by 91 day detectors (EPA bases mitigation decisions on 91 day test results, 7 day tests are for screening only). Radon-222 abatement systems will be installed in conjunction with the contaminated soil/debris removal in a select number of residential structures.

NMED concurs with EPA that a removal action is warranted to clean-up and mitigate radon levels of the identified structures and requests that EPA address the site through the Superfund removal program to protect human health and welfare, and the environment from any imminent threats posed by the site.

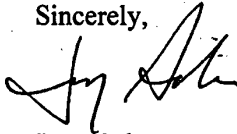


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NMED appreciates the attention given to this site and the efforts of the Prevention and Response Branch. Please contact Ms. Dana Bahar of my staff at (505) 827-2908 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Jerry Schoeppner
Acting Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

copy: John Rinehart, On-Scene Coordinator, EPA Region 6
Dana Bahar, Manager, Superfund Oversight Section
SOS Read File